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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

Naoko TSUJI, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

SERIAL NO.: New Continuation : EXAMINER: FLOOD, Michele C.
Application
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) :

FILED: Herewith :

FOR: TREATING METHOD FOR :
SUPPRESSING HAIR GROWTH

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In advance of prosecution please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2, 5 and 6 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) A method of inhibiting hair growth comprising administering to a surface of skin in need thereof an effective amount of a plant extract selected from the group consisting of rye malt, oat malt and a mixture thereof,

wherein said plant extract is an extract of a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, an alcohol and a mixture thereof.

--3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising administering (B) an elastase inhibitor or neutral endopeptidase inhibitor.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3, further comprising administering (C) at least one proteolytic enzyme selected from the group consisting of papain, trypsin, chymotrypsin, pepsin, bromelain, ficin and pancreatin.--

Please add new claims 7 and 8 as follows:

--7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said plant extract is present in the amount of 0.00001 to 50 wt%.

8. (New) A method of inhibiting hair growth comprising administering to a surface of skin in need thereof an effective amount of (B) an elastase inhibitor or neutral endopeptidase inhibitor; and (C) at least one proteolytic enzyme selected from the group consisting of papain, trypsin, chymotrypsin, pepsin, bromelain, ficin and pancreatin.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found on page 3, line 4, page 4, lines 7 and 13-16 of the specification. Support for claim 7 is found on page 5, lines 16-18 of the specification. Support for claim 8 is found in claims 5 and 6 as originally presented and on page 26, lines 22-25 of the specification. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 8 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The present invention is directed to a method of inhibiting hair growth by administering a plant extract of rye malt, oat malt or a mixture thereof and a method of

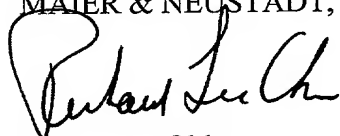
inhibiting hair growth by administering an elastase inhibitor or neutral endopeptidase inhibitor and at least one proteolytic enzyme.

The present application is a continuation application of U.S. 09/614,166 filed on July 11, 2000 directed to a method of inhibiting hair growth.

Applicants submit this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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New Continuation Application

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)

Filed: Herewith

--1. (Amended) A [treating] method [for] of inhibiting hair growth [inhibition, which comprises] comprising administering to a surface of skin in need thereof an effective amount of a plant [of the family *Juniperus* or a malt] extract selected from the group consisting of rye malt, oat malt and a mixture thereof.

wherein said plant extract is an extract of a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, an alcohol and a mixture thereof.

--3. (Amended) [A dermatological composition for external use, which comprises (A) the extract of a plant of the family *Juniperus* or a malt,] The method of Claim 1, further comprising administering (B) an elastase inhibitor or neutral endipeptidase inhibitor.

4. (Amended) [A composition] The method according to Claim 3, further comprising administering (C) at least one proteolytic enzyme selected from the group consisting of papain, trypsin, chymotrypsin, pepsin, bromelain, ficin and pancreatin.--

Claim 7. (New)

Claim 8. (New)